

Danvers River Committee
Thursday, July 21, 2022
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at the Endicott Park Visitors Center (Conference Room) at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Dan DeLorenzo, Acting Chair
William Ciesinski
Bill Fouhey
Robert Hemeon
Michael McCarthy
Tom Perry

Member(s) absent: Bob Moore
Matthew Byrne, Chair
Louie George
Andrea Daley
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Director of Natural Resources

Media Present: None

Other:

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by William Ciesinski, to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2022, meeting; All in favor: 5:0.

New Business:

Chris Sanborn updated the committee on the status of waterway permits. To date, they've issued 563 Waterways Permits, 42 Tender Permits, 22 Season Ramp Permits, 95 Mooring Permits and 65 Dockage Permits. Additionally, there are 35 people on the

marina wait list and 26 on the mooring wait list. Deputy Harbormaster Dave Arathuzik has been working to assign mooring space from the wait list and cleaning that list up.

Dan DeLorenzo asked how many unpaid (unpermitted) vessels are out there. Chris S. said that he estimates there are about 20 vessels that they're still chasing with warnings and violations. Dan D. asked if this was typical. Chris S. said some years they've had up to 100 people that they've been chasing through to the end of the season.

Chris Sanborn received a report from Matt Byrne of a possible sewage issue on Mead St. ultimately making its way into the Porter River. Chris S. said he investigated it with the Town's Engineering Office. They are unaware of a problem but will investigate further. There was a lot of work sewage work done on River St. recently, but the town does not believe this would be related. He did acknowledge that there have been issues with water quality testing at Sandy Beach. Chris S. will provide a follow-up at the next meeting.

Chris Sanborn brought up an idea of offering winter boat storage area in the back parking lot of Pope's Landing to offset some of the future costs of dredging. Chris S. estimates that we could generate up to \$50k annually in revenue with minimum overhead. Chris asked Dan D. if he thought there was a demand for winter storage. Dan D. suggested catering to trailered boats vs. jack stands. Chris S. agreed. There was some additional discussion. Chris S. stated that he wanted to be sensitive to taking away customers from our private marinas in town. Ultimately, the committee agreed that this was a great that would support dredging costs.

Motion: Motion made by Michael McCarthy, seconded by, to Robert Hemeon to explore this idea further. All in favor: 5:0

Old Business:

Chris Sanborn provided a brief update on docks and piers. The applicant from Choate Ave and Chevalier Ave both received letters from SESD regarding the proposed pier projects relative to the SESD easement. Chris S. does not know where the applicant will go from here, but it was clear in the letters from SESD that they were not forgoing rights to the easement. Chris S. will provide updates as they come in.

Dan DeLorenzo asked how the town was progressing on dock & pier regulations. Chris S. said that they are still working with coming up with a contract with Urban Harbors Institute to identify licensed vs. unlicensed piers to provide the town a baseline to work from. Dan D. asked if there was a timeline. Chris S. did not have a timeline.

There was a brief discussion on waterway fees from 2023. Dan DeLorenzo asked when we would need to make a decision on a recommendation for fee changes. Chris S. said we should be prepared to have a recommendation at our September/October meeting.

There was a brief discussion on water quality from a member of the audience. Chris S., at this time, he believes water quality testing has passed.

Motion: Motion made by Michael McCarthy, seconded by Robert Hemeon, to adjourn the meeting of July 21, 2022. All in favor: 5:0

cc: Steve Bartha, Town Manager
David Mountain, Recreation Director